

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06440 070943Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----130008 070944Z /17

O 070830Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3218
INFO THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 6440

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SA, YE, US, PDIP
SUBJ: TALK WITH PRINCE SAUD AL-FAISAL ON PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF
SEPTEMBER 4

REF: STATE 224270

1. MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE KING TO DELIVER THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 4 WAS FIXED FOR 1800 HOURS SEPTEMBER 5 IN TAIF. WHILE WAITING FOR KING, PRINCE FAHD, AND PRINCE ABDULLAH TO COME IN FROM EVENING PRAYERS, FONMIN PRINCE SAUD GREETED US AND THEN WISHED PRESIDENT CARTER REAL SUCCESS WITH CAMP DAVID WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "THE LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR GENUINE PEACE IN M.E.".

2. I INVITED HIM TO READ THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. SAUD READ THE TEXT, PURSED HIS LIPS (A MANNERISM HE OBVIOUSLY INHERITED FROM HIS FATHER*) AND SAID IT WAS A GOOD LETTER WHOSE PROMPTNESS WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED, "BUT ISN'T THIS HOW THINGS SHOULD BE BETWEEN FRIENDS?*" SAUD EMPHASIZED SAUDI FRIENDSHIP FOR US, SAID IT WAS "NOT BORN YESTERDAY" BUT IT WENT BACK TO WHEN SAUDI ARABIA WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN ARAB WORLD SUPPORTING AND DEFENDING US INTERESTS IN THE AREA VERY OFTEN AT GREAT COST TO SAUDI PRESTIGE AMONG FELLOW ARABS.

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3. SAUD SAID THAT IT WAS IN THIS FRAMEWORK THAT HE, AS A FRIEND OF THE US, WOULD VENTURE A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON PRESIDENT'S LATEST LETTER.

A. PEACE IN THE ME CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT PALESTINIANS' SATISFACTION.

B. US ROLE AS "PARTNER" AT CAMP DAVID SHOULD ELEVATE DISCUSSIONS AND RENDER OUTCOME ABOVE INBRED PREJUDICES OF ISRAELIS, ESPECIALLY BEGIN, WHO MAY THINK THEY CAN CONTINUE TO RUN THE SHOW IN US.

C. SELF DETERMINATION IS A MORAL, POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLE SANCTIFIED BY THE UN AND ALL DECENT INTERNATIONAL NORMS. SO WHY ARE THE PALESTINIANS, OF ALL OTHER PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, DENIED THIS NATIONAL RIGHT IN ITS UNTARNISHED FORM? IN OTHER WORDS WHY MUST ANYONE INSIST ON THE PALESTINIANS ONLY "PARTICIPATING" IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE? SAUD ADDED, AS I WAS ABOUT TO REFER TO THE PRESIDENT'S AND SADAT'S ASWAN PHRASOLOGY, "I KNOW THIS IS THE PHRASE USED IN ASWAN. WE DID NOT AGREE THEN, AND WE DON'T AGREE NOW, THAT IT WILL BE ACCEPTED SAVE BY THE ISRAELIS* IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT SOME OF YOUR "EXPERTS" IN WASHINGTON, WHOM I CAN JUST SEE HUDDLING OVER EVERY COMMA, PAY MORE HEED TO HOW THIS EXPRESSION OR THAT IS GOING TO ANNOY OR DISPLEASE ISRAEL AND/OR THEIR LOBBYISTS IN THE US AND CONGRESS ESPECIALLY* IT IS TIME, AND I THINK THAT THIS IS THE BEST FOR AMERICA, FOR PRESIDENT CARTER THE BRAVE, TO BASE ITS JUDGEMENT ON WHAT IS RIGHT, ETHICAL, JUST, AND VITAL FOR SAFEGUARDING US INTERESTS IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION".

4. SAUD CONCLUDED THAT IF THE US CANNOT THROW OUT THIS CONCEPT OF PALESTINIAN "PARTICIPATION" IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE, "PERHAPS YOU SHOULD PUT A BIG PERIOD AFTER THE PHRASE 'THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS' (IN THE PRESIDENT'S SEPT 4 LETTER TO THE KING). THIS

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MIGHT BUY MORE TIME BY PREVENTING THE RADICAL PALESTINIANS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN THE AREA FROM AGAIN EXPLODING WITH INDIGNATION AT THE 'PARTICIPATION' IDEA WHICH, LET'S FACE IT, CASTS THEM IN THE ROLE OF MINOR WARDS WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO RUN THEIR BUSINESS. BESIDES THE 'LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS' IS NOT A NOVEL IDEA. IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF USED IT FINALLY INSTEAD OF THAT LESS PRECISE PHRASE 'LEGITIMATE INTERESTS'."

5. JUST AT THIS MOMENT, KING KHALED AND HIS BROTHERS ENTERED THE ROOM AND THE ROYAL AUDIENCE BEGAN (SEPTTEL).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESIDENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA06440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850070-2459
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780994/aaaaczwr.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cd086956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 224270
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1521975
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH PRINCE SAUD AL-FAISAL ON PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 4
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, PPDC, PREL, MASS, ODIP, OPDC, SA, YE, US, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY), (SAUD, KHALID IBN ADB AL-AZIZ AL)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cd086956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014